(b) whether any study has been made to determine the number of application for passports and renewals from Cannanore, Kasaragod and Wayanad area of Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details of findings?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K GUJRAL) : (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). Yes Sir A study was conducted in 1994 to determine the district-wise distribution of passport applications from all states including the state of Kerla. The study did not reveal any imbalance in the location of the existing Passport Offices, Passport Offices are generally located in areas/ cities with maximum input of applications.

Water Supply Schemes in States

498 SHRI S.D.N R WADIYAR : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether his Ministry has been funding any water supply scheme in some States

(b) if so, the details of those centrally funded schemes,

(c) whether any such scheme is being implemented in Karnataka since Eighth Plan,

(d) if so, the funds sanctioned to Karnataka under those schemes in different years in the Eighth Plan, and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR U VENKATESWARLU) (a) Yes. Sir

(b) (i) A Centrally sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) launched in 1993-94 provides for safe and adequate water supply facilities in towns having population less than 20,000 (as per 1991 census) It is funded by the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 50 50.

(ii) Mega City scheme provides for the central assistance for the development of infrastructure to large 5 metropolitan cities The funding pattern under the scheme is 25% Central Government, 25% State Government and 50% institutional finance

(c) to (e). Under AUWSP, 7 water supply schemes have been sanctioned during the Eighth Plan at a total cost of Rs 438 90 lakhs and a total amount of Rs 190 27 lakhs have been released towards central share The towns covered under this scheme are Belur, Saligrama, Chittaguppa, Kuttur, Kerur, Mundargi and Sadalga.

Under the Mega City scheme, water supply projects amounting to Rs. 44.19 crores have been approved by the State Level Sanctioning Committee in the year 1995-96 for Bangalore City. An amount of Rs. 35.28 crores has been released as Central share for all projects qualifying assistance under the Mega City Programme which includes water supply components.

Assistance to Writers & Artists

499. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are provisions for giving pension/financial assistance to celebrated but old and financially helpless writers and artists;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Under the Scheme of Financial Assistance to persons distinguished in letters, arts and such other walks of life who are in indigent circumstances, and their dependents are eligible for pension/financial assistance subject to the condition that the personal income of the applicant (including income of the spouse) must exceed Rs 1,000/- per month and that the applicant should not be less than 58 years of age (The age limit does not apply in case of dependents apart from other conditions of eligibility)

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Unauthorised Buildings in Cantonment Area

500 SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Directorate of Defence Estates under the Central Command have taken steps to demolish the unauthorised buildings constructed in 'A' Class cantonment area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some officials of these cantonments under the said command are violating the Cantonment Act, 1924 in the process of demolishing such unauthorised buildings; and

(d) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) There is no classification as 'A' Class Cantonments. The Central Command has 18 Class I Cantonments In all these Cantonments steps to demolish unauthorised constructions are taken by the concerned statutory authorities in accordance with